

Session 14-12 a Regular Meeting of the Vessel Haul-Out Task Force was called to order by Chair Howard at 3:45 p.m. on September 9, 2014 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: Carroll, Hawkins, Howard, Lewis, Pate, Pitzman

ABSENT: Stockburger

STAFF: Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Howard called for approval of the agenda.

PATE/LEWIS SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF SYNOPSIS

A. August 8, 2014 Meeting Synopsis

Chair Howard called for approval of the synopsis.

LEWIS/PATE SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Review of Draft Report to City Council and Power Point presentation to Port & Harbor Advisory Commission and City Council

The group discussed that the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission appreciated the presentation and offered feedback that the facility should support the local marine trade services and members of the local fleet who can't haul out here.

Harbormaster Hawkins went through the power point. The following suggestions were provided:

- Who Benefits? Slide: Add Port & Harbor Enterprise.
- Where? Slide: Elaborate on upland elevation necessity.
- Options Slide: Can indicate there are more options through cooperative management.
- Cooperative options could be included in RFP options.
- After the last point about bringing in new business, add a point that we want to keep business we already have from leaving due to lack of service.
- Add a slide that outlines that the Vessel Haul Out Task Force be maintained for another year.
Reasons include
 - to assist in the next steps of making the facility functional
 - to assist in the RFP process
 - they could stand down until the Harbormaster feels they should reconvene

Chair Howard opened the floor to the audience for their feedback on the presentation.

Don Lane, city resident and commercial fisherman with the fishing vessel Predator, appreciated the presentation. He thinks the reason the task force is progressing and has momentum is because of the strong leadership the councilmembers have brought to the group. It will be essential that the group moving forward will need to have a sense that the next step will have strength and leadership when it goes to the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Resolution 14-015, Appointing the Vessel Haul-out Task Force to Review and Make Recommendations on a Large Vessel Haul-Out and Repair Facility at the Port
- B. Updated CIP requests
- C. Aerial Picture of Tr. 1-A and the Fishing Lagoon
- D. Draft Business Performa
- E. Task Force Meeting Schedule

There was discussion that the packet that goes to Council includes the report, survey, pictures, maps, and presentation. Chair Howard requested that the copy of the power point for Council include the carry notes feature.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Don Lane commented again and thanked the group for time and effort. He commented about having spent time in King Cove and observing their travel lift.. He observed a vessel pulling over to the travel lift; they lift it out and cut a line out of the wheel, and lowering back. As a boat owner seeing that, you have to say “how cool would that be” to have that service available. Sand Point had the same situation. It is just another part of the infrastructure there, where here, it is a big deal to get lifted.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE

Mr. Lewis said that for being a novice at the table he has learned a ton of stuff. This is the third port and harbor committee he has sat on and it is definitely a learning experience. He has learned more here than he has in last 15 years he has had his boat parked there.

Mr. Hawkins thanked everyone for their contribution. Their input has been very valuable. It’s an important subject and he feels that to develop the enterprise, we need to recognize we are in the business of boats and the closer we can get to the full spectrum of service for those vessels, the better this community will be. When the enterprise is doing well, the city is doing even better.

Mr. Carroll said he is looking forward to the RFP process and he sees it as the next step. It will be good to hear what the industry has to say. It could be a real important part of funding.

Mr. Pitzman said this was his first task force and appreciated being a part of it. He complimented Bryan and his staff on the presentation. He is excited to see how it is received by the Council. He thinks that there are some strong business interests and questions how can \$105,000 be a stumbling block over this much business opportunity and economic development.

Mr. Pate echoes what Mr. Pitzman said. We all play a role, but he really appreciates Bryan’s involvement. He agrees that the RFP process will be very exciting because there are so many different scenarios that could be proposed.

Chair Howard said she has enjoyed working with Mr. Lewis on these harbor groups and commended him on his growth into a leader. She thanked Bryan for his work on the presentation. It hasn’t been easy to get the business mindset into the Council’s head. She likes to think of some of these things like the load and launch ramp, and so forth, as service centers. That’s how you run a business and we are in the business. We are presenting another service center, business opportunity, and revenue stream. She agrees, how could they not want to fund this. She thanked everyone individually for their contributions to the group.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Task Force the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for a time to be determined, at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

VESSEL HAUL OUT TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2014

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____